

Message Text

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TAGS: EEWT, OVIP (ION PATAN), RO

SUBJECT: 1975 MEETING OF US-ROMANIAN JOINT COMMERCIAL
COMMISSION MEETING

1. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING EX-IM BANK PRESIDENT CASEY'S VISIT LAST WEEK, HIS ROMANIAN INTERLOCUTORS REFERRED TO THIS YEAR'S MEETING OF THE US-ROMANIAN JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION. THEIR ASSUMPTION WAS THAT IT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN APRIL, I.E. A YEAR AFTER SECRETARY DENT'S VISIT. SECRETARY DENT'S COUNTERPART, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATAN, IS CLEARLY LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT WILL BE HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE US.

2. ASIDE FROM THE PROBLEMS THAT WILL NEED TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE COMMISSION MEETING ITSELF, I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT WE BEGIN TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO HOW TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF PATAN'S PRESENCE IN THE STATES, GIVEN THE ADDITIONAL ROLE HE HAS JUST ACQUIRED AS ONE OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT BUREAU WHICH PASSES ON ALL IMPORTANT OPERATIVE PARTY AND STATE DECISIONS. I WOULD HOPE BOTH THAT HE COULD REMAIN IN THE STATES FOR
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A FEW DAYS AFTER THE COMMISSION MEETING AND THAT WE

COULD GIVE HIM EVEN IN A SHORT TIME A GOOD FIRSTHAND SENSE OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

3. I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN TALKING WITH PATAN ABOUT HIS VISIT BUT NEED TO HAVE SOME IDEA FIRST OF WASHINGTON PREFERENCES FOR DATES FOR THE COMMISSION MEETING, PARTICULARLY OF COURSE IN THE LIGHT OF SECRETARY DENT'S SCHEDULE. ONE VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN MY JUDGEMENT IS MFN. BOTH PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND REALISTICALLY I BELIEVE THE COMMISSION MEETING SHOULD BE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AFTER MFN HAS BEEN GRANTED. I REALIZE WE BEGIN ONLY NEXT WEEK THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT AND IT MAY BE WISE TO WAIT TO SEE HOW THESE GO BEFORE TRYING TO PIN DOWN TOO FIRM A DATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, BASED ON CALCULATIONS WASHINGTON IS BETTER ABLE TO MAKE THAN WE OF THE LIKELY TIMING AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT, PERHAPS I COULD BE PROVIDED WITH AT LEAST TENTATIVE SUGGESTED DATES WHICH I COULD USE AS A BASIS FOR INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PATAN.

4. I PLAN TO TIME MY OWN CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON THIS YEAR TO INCLUDE THE COMMISSION MEETING. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT A MAJOR FACTOR, I NOTE THAT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE US-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE MAY 29-30 AND I WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL TO BE ABLE TO BE IN WASHINGTON FOR BOTH THE COMMISSION AND COUNCIL SESSIONS.

BARNES

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